Visual Culture; a speculative essay

Starting with the body.

The visual sense is one of the last we acquire. Touch and sound develop before birth. Taste and smell soon after. But vision seems to come last, and to develop slowly, at least in the sense of sight being organized by cognition. But vision is truly the most far-reaching sense, the one that is truly an extension of humans, that allows us to project further into the world.

Perhaps this helps explain visual pleasure as not only a matter of acquiring data, but also giving the advantage of advance warning. For hunters and gatherers, sight is the most important sense activity.